

### **Event Title: Birding at Botany**

Speaker: Jeff Mollenhauer

Date: September 18 (Thursday)

Time: 8:00 to 10:30am

Capacity: 15

Event Details: Come discover Botany Bay Plantation on beautiful Edisto Island. This cultural and natural treasure offers abounding opportunities for a birder of any skill range. A variety of habitats will be explored including the saltmarsh, hammock and barrier islands. The emphasis of the outing will focus on birds which depend on these areas such as wading birds, shorebirds, and songbirds. Fall is a great time to observe bird migration and many of the shorebirds and songbirds that we will see are headed south to their wintering grounds in Central and South America or the Caribbean. More specifically the group can hope to see species such as White Ibis, Tricolored Heron, Little Blue Heron, Green Heron, American Oystercatcher, Black-bellied Plover, Whimbrel, Black Tern, Red-eyed Vireo, Magnolia Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Prairie Warbler, American Redstart, and Painted Bunting.

### **Event Title: Wetlands and Night Sounds of Donnelly Wildlife Management Area**

Speaker: Tony Mills

Date: 9/18/08 (Thursday)

Time: 5:00pm to 8:30pm

Capacity: 20

Event Details: This event will offer a unique opportunity to explore one of our treasured places by night. Donnelly Wildlife Management Area, an 8000 acre tract of land managed by the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, is home to diverse habitats including rice impoundments, long-leaf pine forest, and tidal marsh. This event will be lead by herpetologist Tony Mills of Spring Island, South Carolina. Tony will begin with a show and tell presentation to highlight a few animals which depend on and thrive in isolated wetlands. The group will then venture into the night, transported in open air, wagon style; to experience the sounds of the night. Participants may hear or see a diverse array of birds and herps including Wood Storks, Black-bellied Whistling Ducks, Great Horned Owls, Pig Frogs and Cricket Frogs.

### **Event Title: Birding by boat in the ACE Basin**

Speaker: Felicia Sanders/ Tom Murphy

Date: September 22 (Monday)

Time: 11:00 to 3:00pm

Capacity: 30

Event Details: Following an introductory presentation at the McKenzie Field station in Bennett's Point the group will travel via the Educational Vessel Discovery into the heart of the ACE Basin, St. Helena Sound. The tour will be led by SCDNR Wildlife Biologists Felicia Sanders and Tom Murphy. They will offer their expertise on birds of the ACE Basin focusing primarily on shore and seabirds and the challenges facing them in the ACE and elsewhere. Other ACE Basin regulars such as the Bald Eagle and Wood Stork may well be sighted and discussed during the trip.

### **Event Title: Traditions of the South: Canning in the Lowcountry**

Speaker: Steve Dowdney

Date: 10/15 (Wednesday)

Time: 6:30 to 8:00pm

Event Details: Canning, whether it be, pickle, preserve, relish, soup or spread, canning is a significant part of our local culture. It was originally intended as a method of savoring fresh local harvest when fresh could not be had. Today, many find pleasure in visiting their local farmers market or U-Pick farms to buy produce for putting up at home. Not only for family use; these jars make excellent holiday gifts for all to enjoy year round. Participants will learn from local expert, Steve Dowdney, author of Putting Up; a how to book as well as a collection of local canning recipes separated by month of harvest. Steve will first discuss the history of the tradition, including the numerous canneries which once existed here in our state. Then he will demonstrate to the group one of his fall favorites, Sweet Potato Butter, and offer ideas for additional home canning projects. This event will be held at the Fort Johnson Complex on James Island.

### **Event Title: Coastal Butterfly's and Tagging**

Speaker: Billy McCord

Date: October 29 (Wednesday)

Time: 1:00pm to 4:00pm

Capacity: 20

Event Details: This outing will begin at the Department of Natural Resources, Fort Johnson Complex on James Island. Begin with a PowerPoint lecture by DNR Wildlife Biologist Billy McCord on the ecology of butterflies found along the South Carolina coast. Billy will also display specimens of common coastal species. As October is time for Monarch migration, the group will travel to the Folly Beach County Park for a demonstration on Monarch tagging. The outing will also afford opportunities to observe other butterflies, their nectar and host plants, and other wildlife and plants.

### **Title: Marine Turtle Conservation in South Carolina; a Collaborative Effort**

Speakers: Kelly Thorvalson, DuBose Griffin, Mike Arendt

Date: November 3 (Monday)

Time: 4:00 to 6:00pm

Location: SC Aquarium Board Room

Capacity: 35 people

Description: This event will take place at the South Carolina Aquarium in downtown Charleston. Participants will learn firsthand about efforts to protect Sea Turtles in South Carolina. This will be a unique opportunity to gain information on the existing collaborative efforts of the SCDNR and SC Aquarium regarding sea turtles. SCDNR State Sea Turtle Coordinator, DuBose Griffin will speak on the Marine Turtle Conservation Program, which manages and promotes conservation of sea turtle populations in South Carolina. SCDNR Marine Biologist, Mike Arendt, will then speak on the In-Water Turtle Project which performs research on adult sea turtles by studying these animals at sea. Lastly, Kelly Thorvalson from the South Carolina Aquarium will speak on the work of the S.C. Aquarium in helping injured sea turtles to regain their strength and health to ultimately return to the ocean. The group will then tour of the Sea Turtle Hospital at the Aquarium.

### **Event Title: Rice Cultivation and Gullah Heritage of the Lowcountry**

Speaker: Donald Sweeper and Thomas Thornton

Date: November 12, 2008

Time: 4:00pm to 6:00pm

Capacity: 25

Event Details: The culture and identity of the Lowcountry is largely defined by the prosperous rice plantations of the past and the people who cultivated them. This event will focus on methods utilized to grow rice as well as the Gullah culture in the Lowcountry of South Carolina.

Participants will visit former inland- swamp rice fields which has remained largely unchanged at Caw Caw Interpretive Center in Ravenel, South Carolina. The group will learn from Gullah historian, Donald Sweeper, about the ability of Gullah culture to survive the test of time by songs, storytelling, foods and folklore. Thomas Thornton, heritage interpreter for the Caw Caw Interpretive Center, will discuss methods utilized in maintaining rice impoundments.

### **Birding at Santee Coastal Reserve**

Speaker: Felicia Sanders and Jamie Radar

Date: December 3, 2008

Time: 9:00am to noon

Capacity: 20 people

Event Details: Hosted at the Santee Coastal Reserve, this event will offer an array of opportunities for the bird lover. The outing will be lead by SCDNR wildlife biologists, Felicia Sanders and Jamie Radar. The group will first visit a longleaf pine ecosystem, home to the federally endangered red-cockaded woodpecker and many other rare birds. A short walk will follow on a cypress pond board walk. Lastly, the group will embark on an open-air wagon ride to view the rice impoundments and marsh areas of the Reserve. This portion will provide the opportunity to view abundant waterfowl species.